



*Presenting  
The  
Minter's Art  
At Its  
Finest*



# *The 1988 United States Mint Proof Set*

Proof coins, the highest examples of the minter's art... brilliantly crafted by the U.S. Mint. The 1988 Proof Set is a "must" for the serious collector — and a superb way for newcomers to experience the fascination of a hobby shared by millions.





# Superb Craftsmanship In Every Detail—

## Now Available Only From The U.S. Mint

Since 1792, the engravers of the United States Mint have produced the miniature works of art which are our nation's coins. Proof coins, including those in the 1988 U.S. Mint Proof Set, are the highest expression of their craft.

From its earliest years, the U.S. Mint struck "specimen" or "Master Coins" in limited quantities. Their brilliant finish and exquisite detail made them appropriate for presentation to visiting dignitaries and foreign kings.

Public sale of these coins began in the 1850's under James Ross Snowden, the ninth Director of the Mint. It was Snowden who first applied the term "proof" to these jewel-like coins—their flawless surfaces "proved" the perfection of the dies with which they were struck—and allowed them to be purchased in collector sets.

Originally prepared in Philadelphia, proof set production was transferred in 1968 to the San Francisco Mint, where the painstaking minting and packaging process continues today.

### Meticulous Execution



Die Preparation

The preparation of the dies for striking proof coins is especially precise. First, the surfaces of selected dies are processed to create a frosted appearance. Next, the image of the die is covered with protective tape, and the exposed surface is polished and buffed by hand. The resulting effect of the frosted

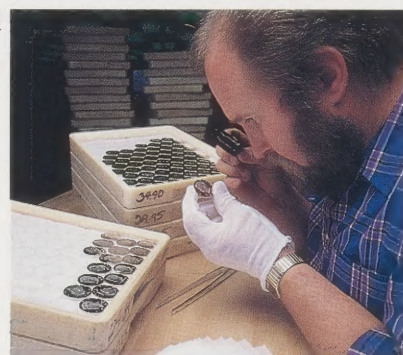
The standards applied to the execution of U.S. Mint proof coins remain among the most demanding in the world—every aspect of the materials and processes used must meet exacting specifications.



cameo image on mirrored field produces the distinctive appearance of a proof coin.

During the actual striking process, coin blanks burnished to remove imperfections are fed one at a time into a specially adapted coin press. Striking each side of the blank at least twice—at slow speed and with extra pressure—ensures depth of detail. The dies used are polished frequently to maintain quality, and replaced after a limited number of strikes. Finished coins are subjected to careful inspection—

with gloved hands, to protect the coins—before assembly into sets. They are then placed into transparent presentation cases which are sonically sealed to keep out dust and moisture.



Quality Inspection

### Gems of the Minter's Art—Yours to Treasure

A superior level of craftsmanship is applied in producing each coin in the 1988 Proof Set, available now direct from the U.S. Mint. This year's set of five coins includes the Kennedy half dollar, Washington quarter, Jefferson nickel, Roosevelt dime and Lincoln penny, all bearing the "S" mint mark.

The 1988 United States Mint Proof Set is a "must" for serious collectors and an excellent introduction to coin collecting for the novice. Best of all, these beautiful coin sets, encased and attractively presented in a special folder, can be yours for only \$11.00—a small price for such exemplary craftsmanship.

By ordering the 1988 Proof Set now, you can begin or add to your collection—or that of someone close to you—with coins that are truly the pinnacle of the minter's art. Use the convenient order form enclosed to place your order today.





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# *How to order your 1988 Proof Set*

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Ordering your Proof Set is easy – simply fill out the enclosed order card, making sure to include any change of address. Then use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope to mail the card with your remittance.

Many of our customers find that family and friends appreciate receiving these beautiful coins as gifts. Don't hesitate to purchase additional sets, since there is no limit to the number of 1988 Proof Sets you can order.

Please allow at least eight weeks for delivery. Checks will be deposited and credit card orders billed upon receipt by the Mint. Once accepted, all sales are final.



**United States Mint**  
P.O. Box 8666  
Philadelphia, PA 19162-0015

United States Mint numismatic programs are self-supporting. All proceeds from sales, after reimbursement for costs, are deposited to the General Fund of the United States Treasury.

Designed and printed in the U.S.A.



*A  
Message  
from the Director  
of the  
U.S. Mint*

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## **Dear U.S. Mint Customer:**

It is a great pleasure to introduce the 1988 United States Mint Proof Sets. The product of painstaking craftsmanship, these masterpieces of the minter's art are among the finest proof coins available anywhere.

### **Exceptional Additions to Your Collection**

The set contains five distinctive proof coins – a Lincoln penny, Jefferson nickel, Roosevelt dime, Washington quarter and Kennedy half dollar – each featuring the two-tone effect of the frosted cameo image on a mirrored field for which these coins are renowned.

These coins are truly fine works of art, affording collectors many hours of study and viewing pleasure. But even more, they represent for each of us, experienced and beginning collectors alike, a living part of our American heritage.

As I'm sure you will agree, the 1988 Proof Set is a sparkling addition to any collection and a perfect way to start one. The price for each set is still only \$11.00 – unchanged since 1981 – a superb value for such artistry. To order your sets, please fill out the enclosed order card and return it in the pre-addressed envelope with your remittance.

### **A Fine Start for the Olympic Commemorative Coin Program**

At the same time, we are offering our new commemorative issue from the Mint, the 1988 United States Olympic Coins.

As you know, the U.S. Mint is the only mint authorized by Congress under the 1988 Olympic Commemorative Coin Act to issue these coins. At

the "First Strike" ceremony, held at the Denver Mint on May 2, 1988, the first silver dollar Olympic coin was struck by Secretary of the Treasury James A. Baker, III.

Following this special event, the Mint started producing coins to fulfill an enormous demand. Since February, U.S. Mint customers like yourself have been able to order 1988 U.S. Olympic Coins through a pre-issue discount program which expired May 15, 1988. Currently, the Mint is accepting orders for Olympic Coins by mail at full price – and we will soon release a quantity for sale at our own sales centers, financial institutions and independent retail outlets.

### **Call our Customer Service Center – We're There to Answer Your Questions**

We appreciate your enthusiastic interest in all U.S. Mint programs. If you have questions about any program, or an inquiry about your order, simply call (301) 436-7400 during standard business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST), or write to:

Customer Service Center  
United States Mint  
10001 Aerospace Drive  
Lanham, Maryland 20706

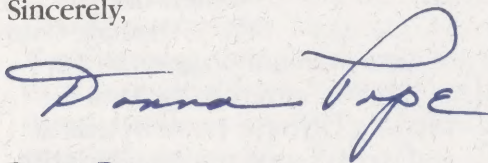
If you choose to write, please remember to include your full name, account number (if applicable), the method of payment, and your daytime telephone number. We will respond to your inquiry as quickly as possible.

Please, we ask that you don't contact any other U.S. Mint facility – they are simply not equipped

to answer your inquiry as promptly as the Customer Service Center.

On behalf of all of us at the Mint, I would like to thank you for being one of our valued customers. We look forward to serving you now, and for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Pope". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donna" and last name "Pope" clearly distinguishable.

Donna Pope  
Director of the U.S. Mint

**P.S.** Use the order form enclosed with this mailing to order a *free* copy of "Medals of the United States Mint." This comprehensive guide is your introduction to over 140 medals now produced by the Mint. To get your copy, just complete the order form as indicated and return it to us. (No coin purchase is necessary.)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This year only, the U.S. Mint will strike gold, silver and bronze space exploration medals for the U.S. Young Astronaut Council, a non-profit organization promoting the study of science by America's youth.

**This new issue will not be available from the U.S. Mint.** For information on a pre-issue discount offer please write to the address below, including your full name, address and telephone number.

America In Space  
1718 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite #410  
Washington, D.C. 20009

**PRE-ISSUE DISCOUNT OFFER EXPIRES JULY 22, 1988**



*The 1988  
U.S. Mint  
Proof Set*



USE THIS ENVELOPE TO MAIL YOUR ORDER OR TO PLACE YOUR NAME ON OUR MAILING LIST